

REMARKS

This application has been amended so as to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

The Official Action rejects each of claims 1-36 as anticipated by or unpatentable over one or more identified prior art references. The present amendment cancels claims 1-36, rendering such rejections moot.

In addition to such cancellation, the present amendment adds new claims 37-42, each of which is believed to recite an invention that is neither disclosed, taught, nor suggested by the known prior art. Among the features recited in the claims now under consideration is a description of the native nitride layer and the sources of its constituents. This characteristic is absent from the known prior art, including the prior art that has been made of record in the present application.

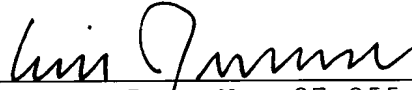
The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

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overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional
fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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